

# Buffalo National River

402 N Walnut, Suite 136  
Harrison, AR 72601  
(870) 365-2700



## APPENDIX SPECIAL PARK CONDITIONS:

### For Land Based Guided Camping / Overnight Backpacking

The Permittee and employees registered under this Permit will exercise this privilege subject to all of the following Specific Conditions:

1. **Definition of Services Authorized Under This Permit:** The Guided Camping / Overnight Backpacking Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) consists of providing guided overnight backpacking /camping trips by escorting visitors/clients to destinations on Buffalo National River while maintaining a required continuous presence at all times with the visitors/clients as specified below:
  - a. The Permittee, or registered employee(s), of the business will maintain the required continuous presence with the visitors/clients during trip.
  - b. The terms and conditions of this Permit apply to guided camping / overnight backpacking trips regardless of compensation or lack thereof.
  - c. Shuttle services for clients' vehicles are not authorized under this Permit. All shuttle services must be provided by a Buffalo National River Canoe Concessioner.
  - d. Canoes, rafts, and /or kayaks utilized for trips must be acquired from a Buffalo National River Canoe Concessioner authorized to provide this service in the park. The name of the concessioner must be provided to the NPS upon request.
  - e. A list of current Buffalo National River Canoe Concessioners is available at <http://www.nps.gov/buff/canoe-rentals.htm>
  - f. Permittee will file a trip plan with the Midwest Region Ozark Communication Center (MROCC) prior to trip. Trip plan must include name of Permittee, name of guide, number of people on trip, and date and locations in park. Trip plan can be filed with MROCC via telephone (888-692-1162), via fax (870-741-5667), or via email (BUFF\_Dispatch@nps.gov). Failure to file a trip plan with MROCC may result in suspension or revocation of the CUA.
  - g. All trips within park boundaries must be conducted utilizing "[Leave No Trace](http://lnt.org/learn/7-principles)" principles. Permittees are responsible for ensuring that all guides working for them under this permit are knowledgeable of the Leave No Trace principles which can be found online at <http://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>.
  - h. When operating within the park boundaries, the Permittee and registered employee(s), when approached by any NPS Park Ranger must announce that they are an authorized camping / overnight backpacking guide.

- i. Permittee must inform the National Park Service within 24 hours when an employee (those working under this permit) is added or is no longer an employee of the business.
- j. Proof of authorization approval must be with the Permittee and their employees when operating in the park unit. A copy of the signature page is acceptable and must be presented to any park employee on demand.
- k. This authorization does not authorize the Permittee to advertise, solicit business, collect any fees, or sell any goods or services on lands owned and controlled by the United States. The authorization is for the incidental use of park area resources by operations that provide commercial services originating and terminating outside of the park unit (or within an inholding).
- l. The Permittee shall inform clients of the general park regulations and safety concerns before beginning trip.

## 2. **Trip Specifics:**

- a. Camping / Overnight Backpacking groups in the backcountry are limited to no more than twelve (12) persons, including guide(s).
- b. Permanent base camps are not authorized.
- c. Burning of garbage, food scraps or other refuse is prohibited.
- d. Camping is allowed in established campgrounds and on gravel bars and backcountry areas at least one-half mile from any developed areas, unless otherwise posted. Developed areas include roadways, campgrounds, boat launch areas, bridges, etc.
- e. Camping is not permitted in hay fields, pastures, caves, bluff shelters, buildings, and designated historic landscapes within Buffalo National River.
- f. Campsites in established campgrounds are available on a first come-first served basis except for campsites on the park reservation system.
- g. Developed campgrounds have a fee per site, per night as well as group occupancy limits. Permittee must check in advance to determine if the area is subject to fees. ([www.nps.gov/buff](http://www.nps.gov/buff) or 870-439-2502)
- h. Group camping sites are available in various locations in the park.
- i. All food and trash containing food materials must be stored in such a manner that it is not readily accessible to wildlife.
- j. Campfire use may be subject to condition such as burn bans. Under no conditions will wood be removed from historic, abandoned, or any other buildings in the park. Use downed and/or dead wood for campfires.
- k. Camps must be left clean, all fires completely extinguished, and all fire rings broken up and scattered.
- l. The area(s) authorized for use under this authorization must be left in substantially the same condition as it was prior to the activities authorized herein.
- m. It is the Permittee's responsibility to obtain prior approval from landowners for access to or across private lands within the Park.

- 3. **Food Service:** Inasmuch as practicable, food service provided shall be in accordance with current U.S. Public Health Service Food Code and the National Park Service's Reference Manual 83F for Backcountry Food Service. Permittees are responsible for ensuring all guides working for them under this permit are knowledgeable of NPS Reference Manual 83F for Backcountry Food Service which can be found online at [http://www.nps.gov/public\\_health/info/rms/rm83F.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/public_health/info/rms/rm83F.pdf).

- a. Information on human illnesses associated with food or water sources within park boundaries will be immediately reported to the Midwest Region Ozark Communication Center (MROCC) at (888) 692-1162, at the earliest possible opportunity.
4. **Vehicles:** Vehicles used to provide this service will be street legal and have current insurance, registration, and license in accordance with state law. The license plate will be properly affixed and displayed as required by state law.
5. **Waste Management:** The Permittee will manage human waste to assure proper disposal at park toilet facilities or will provide its own portable toilets. In areas without toilets, solid (fecal) human waste will be buried at least 6 inches below ground in a vegetated area and urination must occur in vegetated areas away from the river and gravel bar. All bathing and washing, including dishwashing, will be done with biodegradable soaps no less than 200 feet from any water source to prevent wash water from being introduced into the water source. All other activity generated debris will be collected and disposed of outside of the park
6. **Damage to Natural/Cultural Resources:** The Permittee and their employees registered under this Permit will ensure that no visitor/client disturbs, climbs on, damages, or removes any natural/cultural resources, archeological or historic artifacts. Entering any closed area is prohibited by law.
  - a. If artifacts are discovered, the Permittee will ensure they are left in place undisturbed, and will immediately report the discovery to the Buffalo National River Cultural Resources office at (870) 365-2792 or to the Midwest Region Ozark Communication Center (MROCC) at (888) 692-1162.
7. **Emergency Response:** All emergency situations such as accidents, fires, and search and rescues will be reported to the Midwest Region Ozark Communication Center (MROCC) at (888) 692-1162, at the earliest possible opportunity.
8. **Operating Plan:** The Permittee is required to submit an Operating Plan to the National Park Service (NPS) summarizing the operations to be conducted, safety plan of action, previous experience, current certifications, guide qualifications, and a typical itinerary for the activity type. The plan is reviewed and approved/disapproved by the NPS. The operating plan will be kept on file and will become part of the record regarding the performance of this Permit. However, it is a separate document and will not become part of the Permit. The operating plan will specifically include a safety plan of action the Permittee will implement in the event of accident or injury.
9. **Reports:** Monthly Activity Reports and an Annual Gross Receipts Report are required. Non-submission or late submission of any report may be grounds for suspension and/or revocation of the CUA.
10. **Liability Insurance:** The following liability insurance is required for this service:
  - a. Commercial Comprehensive General Liability: The minimum amount of Commercial Comprehensive General Liability insurance required for this service is **\$500,000 per occurrence**.

- b. Automobile Liability: This insurance is required for all owned, non-owned and hired vehicles. The following **minimums per occurrence** apply as they relate to passenger capacities:

Cars, trucks and vans up to 5 passengers:	\$ 300,000
Cars, trucks and vans 6-12 passengers:	\$ 500,000
Vans and buses 13-20 passengers:	\$ 750,000
Buses 21-50 passengers:	\$1,500,000

10. **Prohibited Activity**: The Permittee and employees registered under this Permit are specifically prohibited from providing, conducting, engaging in, or effecting by any method of delivery, including by land, by water or by air, the following:

- c. Engaging in an activity for which you are NOT specifically permitted is prohibited.
- d. Traversing by vehicle anywhere other than on designated roads.
- e. Causing any damage and/or harm to any natural, cultural and/or historic resource or facility, including removing posted signs. .
- f. Feeding wildlife.
- g. Cutting and/or creating new trails in any form or by any means.
- h. Marking trails by flagging, rock cairns, vegetation or dead wood, or by use of marking paint of any kind or by any means.
- i. Pets of any kind on guided hiking trips.
- j. Entering by any closed areas.
- k. Providing guided camping / overnight backpacking service to any commercial firm, research entity, or any agency without first ensuring the entity or agency possesses a valid Special Use Permit issued by the Buffalo National River.
- l. Providing alcohol products of any kind to any visitor/client.
- m. Live vegetation shall not be cut neither shall any soil be excavated.